

# PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SUMMER 2002



59th Annual  
Pepperdine  
Bible Lectures  
Program Honors  
International Slate  
of Church Leaders

See Tribute, Pages 6-7

## Christ & NEW CREATION

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A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

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## Pepperdine Vice Chancellor Named President of Oklahoma Christian University

Mike E. O'Neal, Pepperdine University vice chancellor, has been named president of Oklahoma Christian University. Located in suburban Oklahoma City on a 200-acre campus, Oklahoma Christian has 2,100 students, is affiliated with the Churches of Christ, and is the parent campus to Cascade College in Portland, Oregon. Dr. O'Neal becomes the fifth president of Oklahoma Christian University since it was founded in 1950.

"Dr. O'Neal has had a tremendous impact on Pepperdine during his 25-year career," said Pepperdine President Andrew K. Benton. "His integrity, professionalism, and deep commitment to his faith have enriched our community in countless ways. He and his wife, Nancy, will be missed, but we know what a great opportunity his appointment represents and they go with our prayers and best wishes."

Mike O'Neal, 55, joined Pepperdine in 1976, serving as general counsel, chief financial officer, and vice president for finance prior to becoming vice chancellor in 1991. A practicing attorney and a certified public accountant, he has been involved in gift planning development since 1974. As vice chancellor, Dr. O'Neal directed the estate and gift planning division and Pepperdine's Center for Estate and Gift Planning.

In his initial greeting to Cascade faculty and staff, Dr. O'Neal wrote, "We are very excited about working with you to ensure a bright future for Christian education in the Pacific Northwest. I see such a great need for a vibrant and quality Christian college in your area and look forward to helping fulfill the vision for Cascade College."

Dr. Dennis Lynn, Cascade president, welcomed O'Neal's appointment. "Mike's commitment to Cascade College is evidenced by his personal financial support as well as his desire to see Cascade grow to a point of prosperity," Dr. Lynn said. "I look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with Dr. O'Neal to strengthen the church in the Pacific Northwest."

The return to Oklahoma represents a homecoming for the O'Neals. A native of Antlers, Oklahoma, Dr. O'Neal attended Oklahoma Christian for two years from 1964 - 1966 before transferring to Harding University to complete his undergraduate degree in accounting and business in 1968. He received a law degree from Stanford University in 1970. A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, he has served as an elder, Bible class teacher, song leader, preacher, and ministry leader. The O'Neals have two grown children, Michael and Amanda.



Mike and Nancy O'Neal

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### COVER

The Bible Lectures provide an opportunity for Christians to celebrate service to the church and the world. By honoring many of those who freely give of themselves, everyone is encouraged to be a servant of Jesus Christ and lift up others. Pictured (clockwise from top): Kahlil Jahshan and President Andrew Benton; Royce and Pam Money; John and Claudette Wilson; Dennis Okoth; Marlin and Jeanne Ray.



## A Home for the Heart

by Bill Henegar

In early May, the elders of the University Church of Christ on the campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu announced the most ambitious and exciting advancement in the church's history. The church leaders chose the occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Pepperdine Bible Lectures to reveal plans to build the first ever permanent worship and teaching facility of the congregation.

Since its formation in 1970, the University Church has borrowed facilities from Seaver College, using either the small Stauffer Chapel or the slightly larger Elkins Auditorium for its assemblies. Bible classes have relied on nearby college classrooms. The drawbacks and inconveniences of this system are obvious: classroom arrangements, equipment, and decorative posting had to be set up and taken down after each usage, and worship facilities designed for other purposes had to be altered week by week. Above all is

College. The church building will have an inspiring and commanding view of Santa Monica Bay and the "diamond necklace," the coastal lights of the south bay that sparkle like gems at night across the sea.

Pepperdine President Andrew K. Benton has announced the University's cooperation with the campus church in seeking construction funds. The church elders noted the daunting task of raising the \$10 million-plus needed for construction. Extensive hillside grading and earthquake-resistant foundations push the construction costs higher than normal. But the finished product will be something the entire fellowship of Churches of Christ can be proud of, providing greater opportunities to minister to the community and to students for generations to come.

The proposed auditorium of the facility will seat 1,500 worshippers. Classrooms for all ages will be arranged around the perimeter, affording ocean views. An area is designated for a preschool, and nearby housing will make workshops and conferences for the church at large a possibility.

Also included in the plan is a large parking structure.

The University Church consists of a core of about 100 adult residential members, plus several hundreds of college students from across the nation. For decades the primary outreach of the church has been to the sons and daughters of both

church members and non-members. Each year, there are a number of students who come to Christ during their time at

Seaver College. Of course, the University Church supports many other ministries, such as two full-time campus ministers and several student interns, a pulpit minister and a youth minister, benevolent missions to Baja California, children's and teen ministries, and so

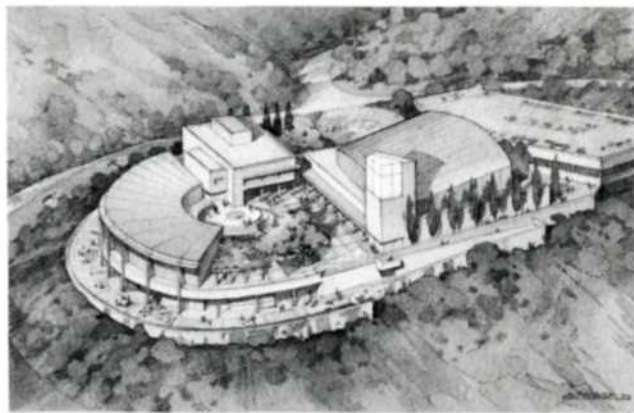
on. However, the large increase in the number of students who are interested in worshipping and working with the church has stretched the limits of the borrowed facilities. Leaders of the church and the University decided that the time has come for a new vision.

The elders are calling the building project, "A Home for the Heart," with the idea that, for 30 years, Pepperdine has prepared a place that cultivates the soul and mind. But the campus church must be prepared to serve as the heart of a great university, in the same way that each of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges is built around the college chapel. In this way, the University and the church may love God with "heart and soul and mind."

The church leadership and the University are calling on Christians around the world to join the small group of core families in building a beacon that will last as long as the University stands, to the glory of God. A church that ministers to the young adults of many congregations ought to be uplifted by those same congregations. Contact the University Church of Christ, Pepperdine University, or the Church Relations Office if you would like to help.



Ken Durham, minister of the University Church of Christ (left), and Andrew K. Benton, president of Pepperdine University



The new facility for the University Church features a 1,500 seat auditorium, outdoor baptistry, fellowship hall, and a preschool/daycare center.

the lack of space for recent growth. Hopefully, all that will be only a memory in the future when the new facility is completed.

Pepperdine has granted a building site to the church on the University's Drescher Graduate Campus, now being constructed high on the hills above Seaver



# PEPPERDINE BIBLE LECTURES

## Seeing the Unseen

by Bill Henegar

Four days—April 30 through May 3, 2002—saw thousands of Christians gathered in an unlikely place to take up an unlikely task. The place was Malibu, not known for its spiritual atmosphere and insight. And the goal was to see the unseen, for the assembled believers realized that “what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

The occasion was the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Pepperdine University Bible Lectures, where great themes from 2 Corinthians were explored, centered around the grand theme, “Christ and New Creation.”

The Lectures began on Tuesday evening when keynoter Randy Harris electrified the crowd with his stirring affirmation that all God’s promises find their “Yes!” in Christ. Other theme lecturers walked through 2 Corinthians in the days that followed: Harold Shank, Chris Smith, Dan Rodriguez, Chris Seidman, and Andy Wall. Finally on Friday evening, Northern Ireland’s Jim McGuigan concluded the week with a powerful message expounding God’s sufficient grace, despite our obvious weaknesses. All seven theme lectures provided direction and energy to the week’s activities.

A man from Texas summed up the week in these words: “What an inspiration! The classes were excellent. The worship was wonderful. The organization was fantastic. The atmosphere was electric.”

In addition to the lectures, classes, and drama and music presentations, the moments of honoring individuals for their significant service to Christ were genuinely touching. A woman from Texas, attending the Lectures for the first time, said, “I especially liked the way you honored so many people for doing such wonderful things for the church. The honor given to you [Lectures Director Jerry



Opening night at the Pepperdine Bible Lectures saw an overflow crowd in Firestone Fieldhouse that seemed especially energized and uplifted.

Rushford] for 20 years was well deserved, and we are so glad they chose to honor you.”

Many clearly agreed with her. Someone from New Mexico wrote to Rushford, “Congratulations on 20 years of wonderful Bible Lectures. What a great service you have provided to

our brotherhood over these years! Each year it seems like you have reached the pinnacle of achievement, but the next year you always come up with something even better.” That sentiment is echoed by hundreds of regular attendees.

A letter from Idaho described the Bible Lectures program as “absolutely superb.” On returning home, a man from Virginia told his church how refreshing it was to hear people with “such a positive view of the future of Churches of



Near perfect weather tempted Bible Lectures attendees to relax outside near the fountain and the new coffee cart.

Christ.” A fellow Virginian said she returned home feeling “close to the Lord... prepared to touch others’ lives with God’s love.” And a Kentuckian acknowledged, “I get more and more impressed with Pepperdine each time I go out there.”

An unusually large number of people this year commented on the quality and helpfulness of the Pepperdine student workers. A man from Indiana said, “One of your greatest assets is the students... what a wonderful witness to the



University's mission!" Someone from Oregon suggested, "They are wonderful representatives of Christ, as well as Pepperdine." And yet another person said, "This kind of service from a student is worth its weight in gold ...."

Attending for the first time, a husband and wife from North Carolina were impressed with, among other things, the variety of activities at the Bible Lectures, commenting, "We are night owls and it was wonderful to have something interesting to do after 9 p.m." Indeed, from early morning devotions and special breakfasts to late evening special presentations and pie and coffee in the cafeteria, the opportunities for enrichment and fellowship abounded.

Longtime attendees seemed equally, or even more, impressed with the Bible Lectures. From Florida came this note: "This was my tenth straight year attending ... I cannot express to you adequately my feelings [for these] spiritual feasts ...."

What makes all the effort worthwhile is not simply the warm feelings that are engendered, the "mountain top experiences" mentioned by so many, as rewarding as those are. One individual spoke

for thousands when he wrote, "You don't know how wonderfully this event serves our church and the state of Mississippi. It opens possibilities to our people—they see God working powerfully and are greatly encouraged." *Encouragement for individuals and churches*—that is the central mission of the Pepperdine Bible Lectures. And when that is accomplished, the effort is eminently worthwhile.

Because of four days in Malibu—and the excellence and spirituality of scores of lecturers, teachers, and presenters—thousands of Christians glimpsed the unseen and returned home to share the awesome vision with others.

Jim McGuiggan from Northern Ireland closed the Bible Lectures with his eloquent message, "Sufficient Grace," after which the audience clasped hands in song and prayer.



A special moment on opening night was the honoring of Bible Lectures Director Jerry Rushford on the occasion of his twentieth series. Along with a prolonged standing ovation, Pepperdine President Andrew Benton presented Rushford with a beautiful mantel clock with an inscription thanking him for his leadership in directing 20 years of inspiring Bible Lectures.



Randy Harris set the tone for the week's worship and study with his spell-binding lecture, "Christ: God's Yes."



Randy Lowry (left) moderated a challenging panel composed of Tracey Hanson, Khalil Jahshan, and Everett Huffard on the topic "How Should Christians Relate to Jews and Muslims in the Context of Today's World?"

# TRIBUTE

## Uncommon Servants

by Agnes Gibson

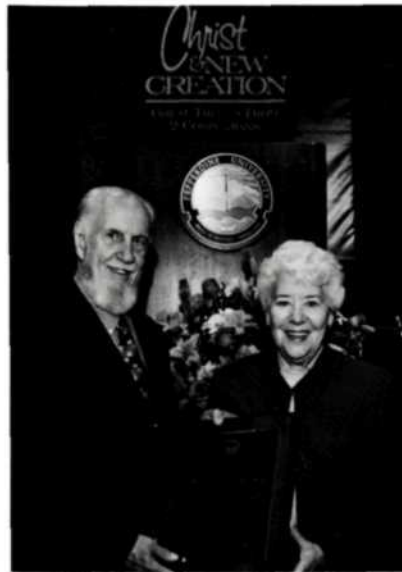
As thousands gathered from around the world to attend the 2002 Pepperdine University Bible Lectures, they became aware of how radically one's life is changed when Christians give themselves over to the Lordship of Jesus. How fitting that this same Bible Lectures would honor such people who were changed by Christ and given their lives to extraordinary service in His kingdom.

Thirty-two people received special recognition through the Distinguished Christian Service Awards given out by Pepperdine University and from various Christian print media such as *Wineskins*, Howard Publishing, or *21st Century Christian*, and church service groups like Associated Women for Pepperdine, for their years of service both abroad and at home. As each was identified and their stories revealed, the Lectures crowd became greatly encouraged by the effective work of God through His people.

No one will easily forget the profound moment when Khalil Jahshan, himself a Palestinian and native Nazarene, was honored for his work with the United States government to find ways to bring peace to the Middle East. Others will remember the great tribute given to Wendell and Betty Broom for their life-long missionary work as well as Harold and Sally Shank's great work at home in Memphis, Tennessee.

On Wednesday night, Pepperdine honored ACU's first couple, Royce and Pam Money, whose work and dedication in Christian higher education spans over 25 years. Their unique work in family counseling was highlighted.

At the Friends of Pepperdine Dinner, the University honored Robert and JoAnn Walker. Bob, who serves as a member of the Board of Regents at Pepperdine, and JoAnn, who is a regular teacher at the Bible Lectures, have given their lives to strengthening the lives of young people



Wendell & Betty Broom, Abilene, Texas



Ira & June Hill, Monmouth, New Jersey

by supporting the institutions that serve them.

The Friends of Pepperdine Dinner also brought an unexpected tribute to Dr. Jerry Rushford. Mike Cope hosted a joyous program reflecting on Jerry's work building up the Churches of Christ throughout the country and especially those in the western United States.

Finally, on Friday evening, Pepperdine honored its own John and Claudette Wilson. Through his work as Dean of Seaver College and in biblical archaeology, and her work training stu-



Harold & Sally Shank, Memphis, Tennessee



Dan & Brenda McVey, Yendi, Ghana, Africa

dents to become teachers, the Wilsons have prepared many young people for their own lives of service.

Many more were honored at morning and evening assemblies and dinner and luncheon programs, each with his/her own remarkable stories of service.

Those honored were inspirational models of service in a world all too consumed with self-interest. Each tribute served as an example of what one life can do when it is yielded to God through Christ and is created anew to serve in uncommon ways.





Thom Lemmons, Abilene, Texas (center), with  
Larry Bridgesmith (left) and Mike Cope (right)



Mary Hollingsworth, Fort Worth, Texas



Phil & Meredith McCollum, Hollywood,  
California; and Tim Jang, St. Louis, Missouri



Robert L. Johnson, Siloam Springs, Arkansas



Robert & JoAnn Walker, Bryan, Texas



Carl Holladay, Atlanta, Georgia, with his  
wife, Donna



Roger Dickson, Bellville, South Africa



Carl & Smitty Brecheen, Abilene, Texas



Alexander & Eleni Melirrytos, Athens, Greece,  
with their daughter, Danae

## SCENES FROM PEPPERDINE'S



"Psallo," a gospel ensemble from Los Angeles performs in concert.



Calvin Bowers signs his history of Black Churches of Christ in L. A.



The Wilson daughters, Emily, Amy, and Laura, honor their parents.



Ken Young and the Hallal Singers lead singing on opening night.



Dan Rodriguez proclaims the gospel of Christ.



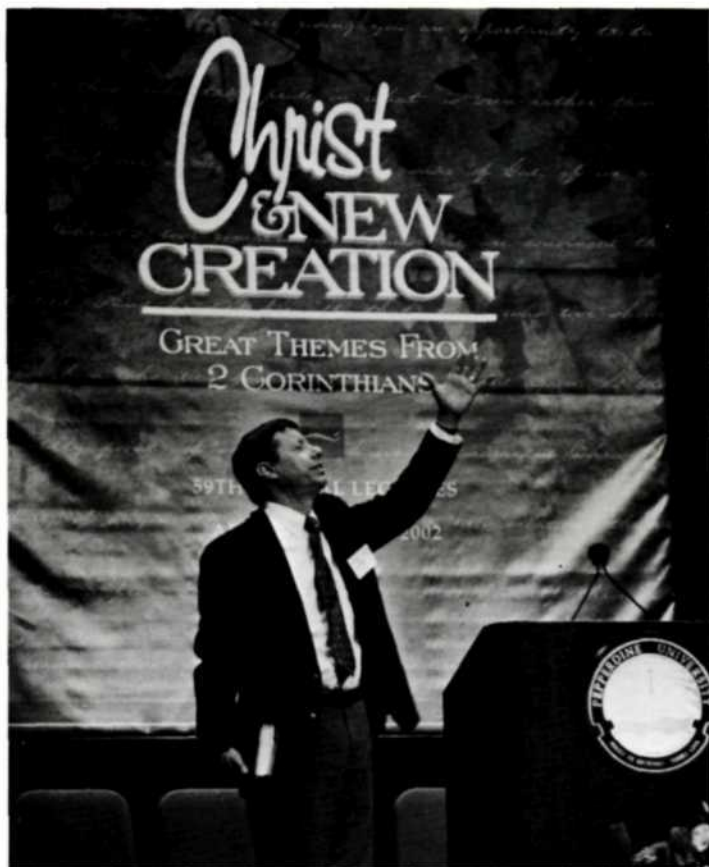
Enjoying the sunny weather in Malibu.



Rick Atchley teaches a daily class on the cross of Christ in Smothers Theatre.



# 59TH ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURES



Harold Shank exhorts in Firestone on "Seeing the Lord Unveiled."



Sharing spiritual wisdom — Helen Young, Emily Lemley, and Amy Cary teach a daily class on "Passing the Faith from Generation to Generation" in beautiful Stauffer Chapel.



Pepperdine students taking up the collection for AWP scholarships.



Above: Joining hands for the final hymn on the closing night.

Left: Lynn and Jerry Jones co-teaching a class on marriage.



The fountain is a favorite place of meeting throughout Lectures week.



## A California Girl in China

by Elmer Prout

On June 18, 1935, in Santa Rosa, California, Ruth Gardner added an adventurous page to United States Restoration Movement history as she said goodbye to family and friends at the First and E. Street Church of Christ and headed to China to marry Roy Whitfield. It was a huge step for a twenty-seven year old school teacher to quit her job and, as she put it, "sail to a strange place far away" to marry a man "I had been with only four times."

Ruth met Roy in the summer of 1931 when he stopped in Northern California on his way to China. She found him to be "a helpful, sharing and thoughtful person — but nothing more." Roy, however, had other feelings and asked Ruth if she would write to him. Ruth agreed but only because, as she stated, "I write to all the missionaries." But over the next three years the routine letters took on a romantic tone and Ruth agreed to join Roy in marriage as well as in gospel work in China.

Had Ruth immediately been convinced that it was God's will for her to become a missionary's wife? Convinced, yes. But not immediately, and certainly, not casually.

Ruth had countered Roy's urgings to join him with practical considerations: "My family needs me here in California. (Ruth's mother died when Ruth was eighteen. Her father depended on Ruth for financial assistance.) Furthermore, you and I should know each other better. We should wait until you return to the States on furlough."

Roy's letters became more insistent. Ruth decided to talk things over with her father who, she was sure, would advise her not to join Roy in China. But to her complete surprise, Ruth's father replied, "You can serve God as well from China as anywhere else. You should go." His answer set the stage for the day in June 1935 when Ruth set out to join Roy in Canton, China.



Ruth at age 10 with her father, O.W. Gardner.

Her father's response to Ruth's question provides an insight into the spirituality of some of the early leaders in the Restoration Movement. Ruth's father, Oliver Whithead (O.W.) Gardner, had roots deep in

the Restoration Movement. The influence came to O.W. through his own father who had attended school under Tolbert Fanning.

After serving as a high school principal in Texas, O.W. moved to Tennessee to teach for Nashville Bible School under David Lipscomb. There he came into contact with many of the pioneers in Christian education efforts among Churches of Christ. A willingness to sacrifice personal comfort, an eagerness to share the knowledge of God's love, and a trust in God's providential care, marked the thinking of those teachers. When O.W. moved his family to Odessa, Missouri, to work with J.N. Armstrong in the Western Bible and Literary College, that same influence continued.

Many of the early missionaries in the Churches of Christ were students in

Odessa when O.W. taught there. In 1920 the Gardners moved to California where O.W. was the principal of Pacific Christian Academy in Graton, California, and later of Santa Rosa Christian Academy in Santa Rosa, California.

Ruth grew up in the midst of a strong mission emphasis at home, in church, and in school. Missionaries often stayed in the Gardner home, spoke at the Santa Rosa church, and participated in the school devotionals. "Unselfish Service," the motto of the Pacific Christian Academy, was also the motto of the Gardner home. To do God's will sacrificially was a constant theme of O.W. Gardner's life and teaching. Ruth has commented on her decision to join Roy in China in these words: "With this background and Daddy's wish that I become a medical nurse in Africa, I was destined to something other than marrying my teenage sweetheart..."

Ruth Whitfield's faith was shaped through strong ties with the Restoration Movement and the warm spirituality of its early leaders. Her father taught her a strong trust in God and in God's providential care which had been passed on to him by men like Tolbert Fanning, David Lipscomb and J.N. Armstrong. How deeply the conviction of God's guidance was impressed on Ruth's heart is seen in comments she made a few years before her death:



Ruth at age 14.

"I'm excited in thinking about all the wonderful things God has permitted me to enjoy. I realize the major events of my life would have to have been brought about by God because no human being could have planned so well for me. It certainly wasn't what I had planned or even wanted at the



time. There were temporary disappointments because I didn't get my way, but now I can look back and see God has better ideas in store for me that did prove to be far more beneficial. Without any choosing on my part, I was fortunate to be born to a couple who were sacrificial in sharing God's love and knowledge to primarily young people...I didn't know at the time that by helping my brother Walden to go to Harding College he would be instrumental in finding a lifelong compan-

ion for me. Walden didn't intentionally have anything to do with it, but God did through him."



Ruth and Roy in 1936.

Ruth Gardner Whitfield — a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ whose life of faith, joy and encouragement, was a living link between such Restoration Movement leaders as David Lipscomb and Tolbert Fanning and this present generation. Through Ruth's words and her example, members of Churches of Christ in the 21st century are called to live with the same spirit of "unselfish service" that characterized Ruth and her father, and which lives on in her own children and grandchildren.

*Elmer Prout is the minister for the Woodland Church of Christ in Northern California.*



The Canton Bible School in Canton, China in 1936. Ruth and Roy Whitfield are seated behind the three girls kneeling in front.



## PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Agnes Gibson

**Tom Bost**, professor of Law, preached for the Whittier Church of Christ on January 27. He and his wife, **Sheila Bost**, also taught a couples Bible Class and held a marriage workshop that same weekend.

**Bob Chandler**, professor of Communication, preached January 13 for the Buellton Church of Christ. He preached for the La Habra Church of Christ the evenings of January 13, February 10, and March 17.

**Randy Chesnutt**, professor of Religion, preached for the Camarillo Church of Christ on January 20.

**Brad Cheves**, vice president for Advancement and Public Affairs, preached for the Fillmore Church of Christ on January 20 and for the Culver Palms Church of Christ on June 30.

**Ken Durham**, minister at University Church of Christ, preached for the Northeast Church of Christ in Greenville, South Carolina, in January. In February, he spoke for a men's fellowship dinner, and a *21st Century Christian* breakfast at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship.

**Susan Giboney**, lecturer in the Humanities/Teacher Education Division, spoke for a women's retreat at the Federal Way Church of Christ in Washington; she also taught a class at the Pepperdine Bible Lectures on "Spiritual Resiliency" in May; and spoke for a mother/daughter tea sponsored by the Long Beach Church of Christ.

**Doug Hurley**, director of Convocation and Student Ministries, preached for the Hilltop Church of Christ in El Segundo on January 20; for the Los Altos Church of Christ on January 27; and for the Sierra Madre Church of Christ on February 3. On February 24 he preached for the Hollywood Church of Christ.

**John Jones**, assistant professor of Communication, preached for the Simi Valley Church of Christ on January 20.

**Steve Lemley**, professor of Communication, preached for the Palm Springs Church of Christ on January 13 and the Hanford Church of Christ on January 27.

**Randy Lowry**, director of the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, preached for the North County Church of Christ in Escondido on January 13. He and his wife, **Rhonda Lowry**, also presented the morning adult Bible Class. On January 10-12, and again on January 31-February 2, he taught a course on "Mediation" in Dallas, Texas, which was offered by Abilene Christian University.

**Rick Marrs**, professor and chair of the Religion Division, preached for the El Cajon Blvd. Church of Christ in San Diego on January 13. In February, he preached for the El Dorado Church of Christ and the Cherry Lane Christian Church in Boise, Idaho. On April 5-7 he presented a seminar on Isaiah for the North Davis Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, and he presented a "How to Study the Bible" seminar in Houston, Texas, April 27-28. He preached for the Church of Christ in Dover, New Hampshire, on June 23.

**Daniel Rodriguez**, assistant professor of Religion, spoke for the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Soul-Winning Workshop on March 21-22.

**Rick Rowland**, associate professor of Communication, preached for the Central Church of Christ in Bakersfield, California, on January 20.

**Jerry Rushford**, director of Church Relations and professor of Religion, led a "history of hymns" tour to England, Wales, and Scotland in May and preached for the Wall End Church of Christ in Kirkby-in-Furness, England, on May 19. He preached for Churches of Christ in Jonesboro, Arkansas, June 9; Gresham, Oregon, June 23; Salem, Oregon, June 26; Tacoma, Washington, July 3 and Seattle, Washington, July 7. He was a theme lecturer and class teacher at the annual "Celebration" family encampment in Auburn, Washington, July 4-6. He will preach for Churches of Christ in Sierra Madre, California, September 1 and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 5. He will present the keynote lecture in Rochester, Michigan, for the Rochester College Bible Lectureship on October 18.

**James Smythe**, special assistant to the provost, preached for the Redondo Beach Church of Christ on January 27.

**Darryl Tippens**, provost, spoke in February at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship, and he preached for the Sunny Hills Church of Christ in Fullerton on February 24.

### Pepperdine Presents Christian Service Awards



In January of this year Pepperdine honored Alice West of Hanford and Walt and Llona Fennel of Rancho Cordova. Alice was honored for more than 40 years of service to the cause of Christ in the Central Valley, and Walt and Llona were honored for more than 40 years of ministry with Churches of Christ in California. Alice passed away on June 27, 2002.



# On the Road Again . . .

**Chuck Van Eaton**, professor of Economics, preached for Churches of Christ in Redlands, Santa Paula, and La Habra during January.

**Helen Young**, assistant director of Church Relations, spoke for a women's day program at the Hemet Church of Christ on February 16. On February 22, she spoke for a women's luncheon at the ACU Bible Lectureship. In March, she spoke with her daughters, **Emily Lemley** and **Sara Jackson**, at a women's program at the Roseville Church of Christ; and on April 6 she was the guest speaker for a women's luncheon at the Culver Palms Church of Christ.



## Northwest Church in Seattle Celebrates Centennial

The 600-member Northwest Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington celebrated 100 exciting years of outreach and ministry on Sunday, July 7. Jerry Rushford, church historian from Pepperdine University, taught a class highlighting the early years of the congregation which was established in a storeroom in 1902. Many former members and out-of-town guests returned to the Northwest Church for this special day of celebration.

Rick Atchley, pulpit minister for the Richland Hills Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, was the guest preacher for the historic centennial service. He preached from the text "On This Rock I Will Build My Church." Milton Jones, pulpit minister for the Northwest Church, preached on "Here I Raise My Ebenezer," at the evening service.

The congregation honored their oldest living member, 95-year-old Annie Hudson, on Sunday morning. Her parents and grandparents were among the founding members of the church in 1902, and she was born in a house near the store-room where the church was meeting. Milton Jones and Bill Lawrence have been the ministers of the Northwest Church since 1978.

## Summer Tour 2002

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|--|---|
| <b>June 2</b> - Central Church of Christ; Amarillo, Texas                    | <b>July 1</b> - Fairfax Church of Christ; Fairfax, Virginia                   |
| <b>June 4</b> - Andrews Church of Christ; Andrews, Texas                     | <b>July 3-4</b> - Camp Shiloh   |
| <b>June 5</b> - Oak Hills Church of Christ; San Antonio, Texas               | <b>July 6</b> - New Haven Church of Christ; New Haven, Connecticut            |
| <b>June 7</b> - Round Rock Church of Christ; Austin, Texas                   | <b>July 7</b> - Manhattan Church of Christ; New York, New York                |
| <b>June 8</b> - Impact Church of Christ; Houston, Texas                      | <b>July 10</b> - Edgewood Church of Christ; Mansfield, Massachusetts          |
| <b>June 9</b> - West Houston Church of Christ; Houston, Texas                | <b>July 13</b> - King of Prussia Church of Christ; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |
| <b>June 11</b> - Work Camp; Fort Worth, Texas                                | <b>July 14</b> - Church in the Falls; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio                    |
| <b>June 12</b> - Work Camp; Fort Worth, Texas                                | <b>July 15</b> - Michigan Christian Camp                                      |
| <b>June 14</b> - Riverside Church of Christ; Coppell, Texas                  | <b>July 17</b> - Naperville Church of Christ; Naperville, Illinois            |
| <b>June 15</b> - Preston Road Church of Christ; Dallas, Texas                | <b>July 18</b> - St. Louis Middle School Camp; Saint Louis, Missouri          |
| <b>June 16</b> - South Lake Church of Christ; Fort Worth, Texas              | <b>July 19</b> - Maryland Heights Church of Christ; Saint Louis, Missouri     |
| <b>June 17</b> - Sugar Grove Church of Christ; Meadows Place, Texas          | <b>July 20</b> - Fairview Church of Christ; Columbia, Missouri                |
| <b>June 19</b> - Richland Hills Church of Christ; Fort Worth, Texas          | <b>July 21</b> - Overland Park Church of Christ; Overland Park, Kansas        |
| <b>June 22</b> - Quail Springs Church of Christ; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma     | <b>July 24</b> - Eastside Church of Christ; Colorado Springs, Colorado        |
| <b>June 23</b> - Garnett Road Church of Christ; Tulsa, Oklahoma              | <b>July 25</b> - Lakewood Church of Christ; Lakewood, Colorado                |
| <b>June 25</b> - Otter Creek Church of Christ; Nashville, Tennessee          | <b>July 26</b> - Littleton Church of Christ; Littleton, Colorado              |
| <b>June 26</b> - Woodmont Hills Church of Christ; Nashville, Tennessee       | <b>July 28</b> - Metro Church of Christ; Denver, Colorado                     |
| <b>June 27</b> - North Atlanta Church of Christ; Atlanta, Georgia            | <b>July 31</b> - College Church of Christ; Fresno, California                 |
| <b>June 30</b> - Providence Road Church of Christ; Charlotte, North Carolina |   |



## Los Angeles Churches Host Historic National Lectureship

by Ted Parks

Its deep roots go back to troubled times in the history of African-American and white Churches of Christ. But confirming the vision of its founders after World War II as well as the ongoing work of its organizers, the National Lectureship continues to bring together Christians from across the land. This year's lectureship was held March 23-29 in Los Angeles.

Predominantly African-American, the National Lectureship was born in 1945 when black church leaders decided members needed a national event to build unity. The first National Lectureship was held in Oklahoma City.

"The primary purpose was to speak with one voice in our brotherhood," said Jack Evans, president of historically black Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas. Evans said the church leaders who founded the lectureship wanted something where members of the church, especially the black church, could come together for fellowship and teaching.

Since the start, the annual event has hopped locations, hosted by cities reaching from New York, to Dallas, to San Francisco, to Los Angeles. The last time the lectureship came to Southern California was 1982 in Los Angeles, where it was also held in 1956 and 1947.

At the time the lectureship began, white church leaders mirrored the society around them by excluding African-Americans not only from national meetings, but from most Christian colleges as well. The atmosphere of discrimination and exclusion likely strengthened the resolve of the National Lectureship's planners to create an event to rally faithful African-American Christians every year.

"It was a microcosm of what white churches were doing and what black churches were denied to do," said Calvin

Bowers, minister at Figueroa Church of Christ, Los Angeles, and director of this year's lectureship.



The Lectureship has traditionally featured a forum where audience members can direct questions to speakers.

Held at the Century Plaza Hotel, the lectureship drew between 2,500 and 2,700 African-American Christians from across the country, according to James Maxwell, minister at Figueroa Church of Christ with Bowers and the lectureship's director of publicity.

About 17 Los Angeles-area congregations participated in the planning and organization of the lectureship, a process that began two years before the event. Stretching from Sunday through Thursday, the national lectureship featured about 60 speakers for the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions throughout the week.

"We enjoy getting together, and lots of times it's the only time we get to see each other," said program chairman Ellis Lewis, elder and minister at La Puente Church of Christ. Pointing to other national church meetings, Lewis explained that the National Lectureship was the only nationwide gathering designed for African-American members of Churches of Christ.

Director Bowers underscored the lectureship's historic goal of uniting Christians. "This lectureship was really inspired by a need for unity...and it has continued to thrive," Bowers said.

## Portland Work Camp Teaches West Coast Teens About Christian Service

Portland WorkCamp, a week-long service project/summer camp experience for teens was held July 1-5.

Youth groups from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, and British Columbia made Cascade College their home for one week, while they painted houses for low-income, disabled or elderly residents in North Portland.

Co-sponsored by Cascade College and the Portland Urban Ministry Project (PUMP) Church of Christ, the event embodied all aspects of youth ministry, said Bill Hunt, Cascade's associate dean of students.

"It's mission work, service, worship, evangelism, reflection — everything that youth ministry should be," said Hunt. Jeb Bristow-Hanna, a junior missions major at Cascade, served with Hunt as director of WorkCamp 2002.

## Cascade Professor Edits Book on African Missions

Dr. Stan Granberg, associate professor of Bible, is editor of a recent ACU Press release titled "100 Years of African Missions."

The work is a tribute to Wendell Broom, long-time ACU Bible professor and missionary to Africa. In addition to chronicling Broom's service in missions, the book focuses upon the history of Church of Christ missions in Africa and the future of the African church, as well as including chapters on mission strategies and issues drawn from research by Granberg and others.

Other contributors include: Mark Berryman, Glenn Boyd, Monte Cox, Roger Dickson, Sonny Guild, Henry Huffard, Dan McVey, Robert Reese, Bill Searcy, Sam Shewmaker, Shawn Tyler, Gailyn Van Rheen, Wimon Walker, Tex Williams and Don Yelton.



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# Pepperdine Schedules Fall Events

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